



# SOUVENIR BOOKLET

This 250th anniversary booklet is dedicated to Mr. Edmund D. Kelsey, principal of the former Rutland High School from 1927 to 1954, whose continued leadership in all phases of community service and activities from 1927 to the time of the publication of this history, written and compiled by him with the assistance of his fine committee, has continued unabated. The town of Rutland is grateful to him for his continued interest in and dedication to our town and its people.

ALBERT J. THOMAS  
MARGARET C. GORDON  
DAVID E. ANDERSON  
CHARLOTTE E. JUDKINS  
JOHN COLLINS  
FREDERICK H. MATHEWS

*250th Anniversary Committee*

# RUTLAND MASSACHUSETTS

CELEBRATION  
SOUVENIR  
BOOKLET

250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
TOWN'S INCORPORATION  
with the  
PROGRAMS of EVENTS  
and  
HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1722 - 1972

# Foreword

The members of the Souvenir Booklet Committee have spent many hours in searching for interesting historical information that would appeal to the readers of the booklet. It has been a gratifying experience in talking with Rutland citizens and reading many sources of printed material, but it has resulted in a problem of making a selection as to those items to be printed and those to be left out. We know that there are many buildings in Rutland that have a noteworthy background of information that should not be lost, but space in our booklet is limited. It is like a good meal, we want more of it. Hopefully the publication of a comprehensive historical book concerned with the background of many existing old homes can be a possibility in the near future. However, the Souvenir Booklet Committee hopes the readers will find this booklet both useful and interesting, as to the anniversary programs and the brief historical information as related to the Town of Rutland in its development as a community.

MR. EDMUND D. KELSEY, *Chairman*

MR. RAYMOND H. KIMBALL, *Co-Chairman*

MR. H. SCOTT DAVIS

MRS. WILLIS E. JANES

MRS. ROGER J. LEMERE

MR. EDWARD A. TURNER

# Purpose of Celebration

to

Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the  
Incorporation of the Town of  
Rutland, Massachusetts

On October 9, 1721, the freeholders voted to petition the General Court to "establish them as a town to have and enjoy privileges other towns enjoy".

During the session of the General Court, which started May 30, 1722, the Act of Incorporation was passed. The title to the Act was as follows: "An Act for further establishing the Town of Rutland and authorizing them to choose town officers, raise and collect money for defraying the necessary charges of said town".

Rutland's First Town Meeting, July, 1722 — Reproduced July 28, 1930.



*Standing from left to right: Charles E. Carroll, Col. Minot; Howard S. Davis, James Browning; Edward J. Prouty, John Dakin; James F. O'Herron, William Finton; E. Dexter Marsh, Robert McClem; H. Edward Wheeler, Daniel How; Rev. Robert French, Rev. Joseph Willard.*

*Seated left to right: Mark H. Putnam, Hugh Hamilton; Charles J. Campbell, Deacon Joseph Stevens; Charles E. Taylor, Edward Rice; Clinton W. Putnam, Eleazer Haywood; Ralph W. Temple, Peter Moore; George E. Smith; Moses How; George H. Miles, Lieut. Davis; Albert J. Thomas, Cyprian Wright; Louis M. Hanff, Capt. Samuel Wright.*

*Ends: Roger L. Culver, Father Time; Mrs. Margaret S. Griffin, Colonial Dame.*

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN



*Left to right: James L. Wood, Frank J. Brooks, Chairman, George F. Griffin.*

## THE 250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



*Seated, left to right: Charlotte E. Judkins, Special Events; Albert J. Thomas, Chairman; Margaret C. Gordon, Sec.-Treas.; Standing, Fred H. Mathews, Parade; David E. Anderson, Accountant; John Collins, Safety and Legal.*

**PARADE GENERAL COMMITTEE:** Fred Mathews; Chairman, Fred Davis; Eino Taipale, Frank Myska, Co-Chairmen.

**STAGING COMMITTEE:** Albert Scales; **GUIDES AND DIRECTORS:** Richard Bieksha; **COMMUNICATIONS:** Veiko Jarvi; **GROUND COMMITTEE:** Gary Liimatainen; **ENGINEERING:** Robert Hatstat; **AWARDS:** Ethel Tucker; **SECRETARY:** Ann Mathews.



*Parade Marshal  
John Collins*



*Honorary Parade Marshal  
Waino Ketonen  
Former World's Champion  
Middleweight Wrestler*

**WOMEN'S DIVISION:** Charlotte Judkins, Chairman; Carol Taylor, Co-Chairman; Greta Scully, Ruth Lowe, Prudence Buck, June Rio.

**MEN'S DIVISION:** David Anderson and Kenneth Viner, Co-Chairmen.  
**BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH:** Kenneth Viner, Chairman.

#### THE 1972 ANNIVERSARY QUEEN AND HER COURT



*Left to right: Betty Kolofsky, Irene Hagman, Jolene Rio, Sandra Bigelow, Queen Geraldine Sidoti, Cynthia Eddy, Deborah Hunter, Pamela LaBonna. The Queen will reign at all celebrations of the 250th Anniversary.*

# Town of Rutland

By Authority of.



James L. Wood  
Frank J. Brooks  
George C. Giffin



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## A Proclamation 1972

WHEREAS, *In the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty-six, an area known as Naquag was purchased from the Indian owners and later to become the site of the Town of Rutland;*

WHEREAS, *The General Court of Massachusetts acted favorably on the petition of the Proprietors On February 23, 1713 and that such new town be called Rutland;*

WHEREAS, *That the Town of Rutland on June 18, 1722 was Incorporated by the Great and General Court and that said Town of Rutland is celebrating its Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary the entire year of 1972;*

NOW, *therefore, We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Rutland, in the County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim as*

### Rutland Founders' Day June 18, 1972

*in memory of, and as tribute to, those brave pioneers who settled said Town of Rutland.*

*Be it further PROCLAIMED that appropriate exercises, events, and celebrations be held throughout the year; and be it further PROCLAIMED that we, this Board of Selectmen, dedicate ourselves to the task of incessant progress, aimed at building a better community for ourselves and our posterity.*

*GIVEN in the Selectmen's Office in Rutland, this 31st day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and ninety-sixth.*

# The Naquag of Rutland

Mount Wachusett, overlooking the beautiful valley of the Nashaway, was a great and almost inaccessible stronghold for the Indians. Weetamoo was the squaw sachem of this natural fortress, and from this mountain many stories have been told; but the one we are interested in deals with the Indians of the "Naquag" tribe, who made their homes in what is now known as Rutland.

The Naquag were Christian Indians who were being taught the religious ways of the white man; they lived in peace and in some instances close associations were formed.

On Muschopauge Hill they maintained a village and to this day there can be found remnants of their culture. On the north end of Muschopauge Pond can be found the Indian herb gardens, still growing and blooming. The Naquag were of Algonguan stock and were not as nomadic and warlike as their counterparts the "Iroquois".

In 1723, one year after the settling of Rutland, an Indian raid by the Mohawks of the "Iroquois" took the life of Joseph and Samuel Stevens while they were haying, and followed their attack with the murder of Reverend Joseph Willard. The Indian attack and murder gave the town what we call "The Parson Meadow Massacre". This area is located in the center of town near the cemetery and fire barn. During this same period the town Grist Mill was burned by marauding Indians, but even today if one drives down Charnock Hill to the intersection of Sassawana Road, one can walk along the mill brook footpath and see what remains of the old mill location with the seeds of oat, barley, and wheat still growing there.

Rutland was once on the Indian trail that leads from Lancaster to Hadley and during the King Philip War this trail was used by the Indians in their marches to sack and pillage the settlers and to hasten their retreat when pursued.

The Naquag, being located in Rutland the center of Massachusetts, most assuredly were of the Nipmuck League and probably were associated with Philip and Weetamoo of the Wachusett Indians in the King Philip War. But even with the passing of time, the Naquag has left his mark with names such as Muschopauge Pond, Wachusett Street, Sampauge Pond, Pommogussett Road and Sassawanna Road for us to see each day as we travel through Rutland.

"Ye say they all have passed away,  
That noble race and brave,  
That their light canoes have vanished  
From off the crested wave;  
That 'mid the forest where they roamed  
There rings no hunter's shout;  
But their name is on your waters,  
Ye may not wash it out."

"Lydia Huntley Sigourney"

# Early History



*Rutland in 1838*

Present day Rutland began as a part of a twelve mile square tract of land purchased from the Indians by five citizens of Lancaster. A Deed was executed on December 22, 1686 by "Joseph Trask, alias Puagastion, of Pennicook; Job, alias Pom Pamay of Natick; Simon Piticon, alias Wanapan of Wamassick; Sassawannow of Natick; James Wiser, alias Qualipunit of Natick," to Henry Willard, Joseph Rowlandson, Joseph Foster, Benjamin Willard, and Cyprian Stevens. The amount paid was 231, of the currency of that time. The Area was called NAQUAG and its boundaries were as follows: "the South corner butting upon Muschopauge Pond — North to Great Wachusett; — running Northwest to Quapuanimawich a little pond and so to Asnacconcomick Pond which is the Northwest corner; and running South thru the great swamp Musshauge and to Sassa-kataffick, the Southwest corner; then running East to Sampauge Pond to Muschopauge, the East Corner.

A petition was filed in General Court in Boston for Confirmation of the title and this was given on February 23, 1713 with the provision that within seven years 60 families had settled on the land and that sufficient area be reserved for Ministry and Schools. The settlement was to be called Rutland. The proprietors met in Boston in 1714 to choose a clerk and moderator for the town. At this time it was voted to purchase a book and to record the deed and the names of the proprietors therein.

The twelve miles square comprised present day Rutland and parts of Barre, which was the Northwest part of the original grant; Hubbardston which was the Northeast quarter of the tract; Princeton, which was the original East Wing; Oakham, which was originally Rutland West Wing; Holden, a small corner two miles from the meeting-house; and Paxton.

On December 14, 1715, the proprietors met in Boston and voted to survey a six mile square for the settlement of 62 families. This area

is now called Rutland. After the survey, the 62 families were to choose lots for homes but refused to do so until land had been set aside for the meeting-house. They chose the hill where the fire-house now stands as the center of the town and set aside ten acres of public land for a burying ground, school lot and training field. They laid out a street called the 10-rod road, which began  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the meeting-house and ran due east for one mile. Four-rod roads were laid out from the ten-rod road, and plots were laid out on both sides of all roads. Settlers chose lots and were to receive Title to same if they built a home and improved the land within two to four years. The first settlers came from Boston, Lexington, Concord, Sudbury, Marlborough, Framingham, Brookfield and emigrants from Ireland. In 1719, the first male child was born to a family named Howe and was given 100 acres of land. In four years the committee from Boston inspected to see if the settlers had fulfilled the conditions required. They found everything satisfactory.

Sam Wright set up a sawmill to help provide lumber for homes. Money was set aside to build a cart road to Lancaster. The first taxes were three-pence per acre per annum. The Pond end of town (present Demond Pond) was called Dublin as this is where the Irish emigrants settled, (hence Irish Lane.) In 1799, a petition was made for a Turnpike from Amherst thru Hardwick, New Braintree, Oakham and Rutland to Great Road, Shrewsbury and to Boston. It was to be a toll road and may still be seen in parts of West Rutland as it ran through the Ware Road and Demond Pond area. The first meeting-house was started in 1716 and the frame was erected on the site of the present fire station. Reverend Joseph Willard was the first minister and he was active until 1723 when he was killed by Indians. The townspeople had some trouble with Indians for several years and many people were killed or captured during this time.

When the Revolution started, Rutland was a prosperous settlement. Farms were producing and the people considered themselves to be independent. They felt they had something to defend and to fight for. The minister did not feel that they should take up arms, and Col. John Murray, the town's richest citizen agreed. Col. Murray had been representative to the General Court and was friendly to England. However, Rutland united in assisting and defending the rights of independence. In spite of the epidemics of 1749 and 1756, during which about 80 children died, Rutland still had a goodly number of young men. Fifty were selected and marched off to join the Minute Men. Many of these participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. All the rest, over 16 years of age, were formed into a local Militia to defend the town. They had one field piece and 30 bullets per man. About every person in the town was affected by the war.

In 1777, Burgoyne's army surrendered and was quartered in Cambridge. However, Congress ordered them moved to Rutland, and land for a Barracks was set aside on what is now the corner of Route 122A and Charnock Hill Road. The building was built 40 x 140 and was two stories high. It contained 24 rooms, each with two windows of 8 x 10 glass. Rutland townspeople had charge of building and were ordered to build two more. However, the cost was too great, so two

temporary buildings were erected, as well as a Guard House, Storage Barn, and a large well 70 ft. deep and 12 ft. across. This well still exists in the field on Charnock Hill Road and is called the Hessian Well. The prisoners were kept in this area of Rutland during the warmer weather and were marched to Virginia to be quartered for the winter. While they were in this area, the officers of the British Garrison who were guarding the prisoners, were quartered in private homes. Red Coats were everywhere and the town was full of the enemy. The men were allowed to go out among the people and to barter for food. This leniency to be allowed to mingle with the townspeople was represented by the public.

There were some incidents of misconduct on the part of the Hessians against the townspeople. An important citizen of Rutland was the aforementioned Col. John Murray. This man, named John McMorrah and his mother sailed from Ireland and arrived in America at the time of the settlement of Rutland. His mother died during the journey. Shortly after he arrived in America, he changed his name to Murray. He arrived penniless and in debt, but by enterprise and good fortune, he became the wealthiest citizen of Rutland. He was a large landholder, held many public offices, and was a member of the Mandamus Council. When these councilors attempted to enforce the Stamp Act, he was forced to flee to Canada, where he died. His son, Alexander, remained loyal to the colonies and was the only member of Col. Murray's family who did not flee. He served in the army and when his father's lands were confiscated and sold, he was awarded a small farm and lived out his life in Rutland.

One of Rutland's most interesting citizens was known as Madame Jumel. Her name was Betsy Bowen when she lived with her mother, sister, and step-father, Jonathan Clark, in a "dug-out" near the gate to what is now known as Goose Hill Cemetery on Charnock Hill Road. Betsy married a rich San Dominican merchant named Stephen Jumel. For many years they lived in Paris in great splendor. In 1822 Stephen Jumel lost his fortune and Madame Jumel came to New York to try to recoup the money. She was quick to a bargain and through her clever actions, she acquired a magnificent estate in Saratoga, New York. After Stephen Jumel's death, she became the wife of Aaron Burr, ex-Vice-President of the United States. After a short marriage which ended in divorce, she resumed the name Madame Jumel and died at the Jumel Mansion in 1865.

# General Rufus Putnam

Another prominent citizen of Rutland was General Rufus Putnam. He was born in Sutton, spent much of his boyhood days living in an Upton tavern, and served his apprenticeship as a millwright in North Brookfield living there for 27 years. He never had one day in school and yet he taught himself the 3R's and the higher mathematics necessary to be a wheelwright and a surveyor. As a colonel in Washington's army, his inspired idea of a movable fort for Dorchester Heights, which he erected in the darkness of one night, drove the British out of Boston. Rufus Putnam's Revolutionary record was a long one which culminated in the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. In 1780 he bought a farm of 150 acres in Rutland which was confiscated property formerly owned by the Royalist Col. John Murray and moved his family there from North Brookfield. While he served the town of Rutland in many official capacities, his big dream was a plan for the settlement of the Northwest, which resulted in the Ordinance of 1787.

The first division of the pioneer settlers of the Ohio Company left Danvers, December 1, 1787. General Putnam returned to Rutland in 1790 and moved his family and friends, a party of 26 persons, to their new home in Marietta, Ohio. He died in 1824 in his 87th year. His Rutland home on Main Street was at one time owned by the Rufus Putnam Memorial Association, but is now privately owned. A tablet on the front of the house informs the public about certain facts in the life of Rufus Putnam. The property has been recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Weinstein.



General Rufus Putnam House, Rutland, Mass.

# Now Only A Memory

West Rutland was a prosperous manufacturing village nestled between the hills overlooking the clear, cool waters of Long Pond and Long Meadow Brook about two miles west of Rutland Center.

The village was first known as Buck Brook, taking its name from the stream that connected with the Demond Pond Reservoir; also known as Round Pond; Cedar Swamp Pond, and Evans Pond, with Long Pond. The waters of this stream have been used almost continuously to turn the wheels of some mill, either grist, saw, or woolen mills.

Later it derived the name of Deathville, from a family named Death, who for several generations lived there, never realizing at the time how appropriate that the name Deathville would be, when nearly two centuries later the village would drop into oblivion, when the buildings would be seized, and torn down by the Metropolitan Water Commission which was established to provide water for the people of Metropolitan Boston.

The village had a general store, a post office, a school, a railroad station and a large woolen mill.

The mill was situated on Buck Brook, on the same stream and nearly on the same spot, where in 1729, Malcolm Hendry carried on a grist mill.

A grist mill owned by Foster Dana, located by the lower dam at West Rutland, was destroyed by fire. After the fire, the property was purchased by George Gates, and after holding it sometime, he then sold it to a Mr. Smith, from whom Mr. William J. Stearns purchased the same.

Mr. Stearns started in a small way, manufacturing cotton batting and bed comforters. The building was destroyed by fire, thus ending the manufacturing of bed quilts. He rebuilt, however, changing from the old location to the top of the hill, where he commenced the manufacturing of satins.

His business prospered and he increased his holdings until he owned a large portion of the village. This building was also destroyed by fire, and later, following the death of Mr. Stearns, a much larger and more modern plant was constructed by his wife, Mrs. Nellie Stearns.

The new plant was operated by Mrs. Stearns and her son Frederick Stearns, who was the general manager. The business was known as the Lakeville Woolen Company. The business was finally sold to the Rutland Worsted Company, who became noted for their fine worsted cloth. In 1925, the Rutland Worsted Company was taxed by the Town of Rutland for about 28 buildings and 54 acres of land, and 120 acres, called the Demond Pond Reservoir land.

In the late 1920's, the land and buildings of the Rutland Worsted Company were purchased by the Metropolitan Water Commission.

This little community and its mills have held a very important place in Rutland's history, providing employment for its citizens and

business for its merchants. Thus, the passing of West Rutland village marks the changes that time effects the life in a community. Alas, how appropriate was the name Deathville.

By Raymond H. Kimball



## North Rutland

During the early 1900's, North Rutland was a thriving town within a town. Besides a General Store, a Seventh Day Adventist Church, an elementary school, several saw mills, and a boarding house, North Rutland could also boast of the Moulton Manufacturing Company. Founded by Albert and Warren Moulton, it was a "shoddy" mill and was built on a demolished saw mill and grist mill site beside the Ware River.

Directly below the mill were two dams. The first supported an electric dynamo which produced hydro-electric power primarily for the Moulton Manufacturing Company. The water flowing over the second dam drove saw machinery belonging to John Moulton's grandfather. Wood produced at the elderly Moulton's saw mill found its way into many of the buildings in North Rutland.

The General Store originally built and operated by a Mr. Arthur E. Codding who ran it until 1921. Mr. Clarence Bigelow bought the store and ran it until 1931 when the MDC bought the land. Still a prominent resident of Rutland, Mr. Bigelow tells of his grandfather going to Spencer to pick up leather to be cut out for shoes and sold back to the shoe manufacturers in order to obtain staples, such as molasses, wheat, or bran.

A society formed in North Rutland was the Ladies Aid Society. Suppers, special events, and delightful Christmas parties for the youngsters were put on by this group. Many a North Rutland youngster was trilled by the decorated tree and happy with a bag of candy, a bag of popcorn and presents furnished by these ladies.

During the early part of the 1900's, North Rutland grew by leaps and bounds. No doubt if left to its own destiny, it would be one of the true centers of the town of Rutland. Fate had other plans for it, however. By 1928, most of the area known as North Rutland was either bought outright or taken by eminent domain for use by the MDC as a water producing area. In 1930, most of the town within a town faded into the history books, only to be seen by those who wonder about such things.



*Store formerly owned by Clarence Bigelow*



*Moulton Manufacturing Company, Rutland — 7-10-30*

# The Prison Camp and Hospital

The General Court in 1903 appropriated \$25,000 to establish an industrial camp for prisoners to reclaim and improve wasted lands. The Commonwealth purchased 914 acres of land in Rutland and when a dormitory and other buildings were completed in 1904, prisoners moved in. The prisoners were selected from the jails and houses of correction who were able-bodied and serving sentences for drunkenness and other minor offenses. The prisoners hacked their way through waste and scrub land and created a thriving farm of 150 acres. The farm produced enough potatoes to ship to the state prison. The dairy barn housed 60 pure-bred Holsteins producing enough milk to send 400 quarts daily to Worcester with a yearly profit of \$5,000. Hens laid 1,800 eggs daily yielding an income of \$11,000 a year. Goats were also raised and many kids were sold each year to the Italian population in Worcester.

By 1907 an isolated 30-bed hospital had been constructed near the farm for those prisoners afflicted with tuberculosis. During the 30-year period of existance there were four superintendents, the last one being Mr. Willard Turner, serving from 1918 to 1934. Due to the fact that the property was on the drainage area of water supply, the Prison Camp and Hospital was abandoned on November 30, 1934, and the land and buildings sold to the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission.



*Prison Camp and Hospital, Rutland, Mass.*

# Transportation

Transportation in Rutland varied with the progress of the town. The first settlers had horse and carts, then the stage coach routes were developed. As years progressed, the railroads came to Rutland.

A company was formed and received a charter in 1871 to build a railroad from Cambridge to Northampton to be called the Massachusetts Central. The road was completed to Ware in June 1887, and regular service through Rutland started on June 27, 1887. On December 19th, 1887, the road was opened through to Northampton, a time table issued in 1888 showed four passenger trains a day leaving Boston and returning from Northampton to Boston. Many Rutland residents going to Worcester would get off the train at Jefferson and take a trolley car to the city. The best years of the Massachusetts Central were through the year 1925. Extensive washouts caused by the hurricane of 1938 resulted in stopping all railroad activities through Rutland. There were three railroad stations in town, one at Muschopauge on the opposite corner from the present home of Mrs. Harriet Hartson, on East County Road, a second at Rutland on Miles Road, not far from the residence of Hugo Alinovi, and a third at West Rutland on the road off 122A leading to the State Park and the old Prison Camp. The Muschopauge was important to the State Sanatorium for supplies and passenger service; the Rutland station was important for mail, supplies and passenger service to the center of the town, while the West Rutland station was important to the village of West Rutland and the Prison Camp.

The following persons were among the Rutland citizens serving in an official capacity: station agents: Oscar Lloyd, West Rutland; Martha Smith (1898-1932) at Muschopauge; Herbert Wheeler, Fred Ela, Frank Bacon, at Rutland; section foremen; Tom Burke, Patrick Murphy, Patrick Myers, section men; Peter Alinovi, Daniel Connor, and John Martin.



B. & M. R. R. Station, Rutland, Mass.

John H. Griffin operated a livery stable on Pommogusett Road at the present site of the Mobile gas station and for many years held the government contract to carry mail from the Rutland Station to the post office. With about eight horses at the stable, and assisted by his sons Earl and Walter, Mr. Griffin would meet the train at the station and pick up mail and passengers.

At one time the Prescott Bus Line, owned and operated by Clarence E. Prescott, ran trips between Athol, Barre, Rutland, and Worcester. This was the first bus line in the county running from suburban towns into Worcester. With the increase of private ownership of cars and better highways, the automobile has become the chief mode of transportation today.



*Train 3107 leaving Boston at 1:40 P.M. Arriving at Muschopauge Station at 3:21 P.M.*



*West  
Rutland  
Station*

# The Water Tunnel Under The Town

As the Metropolitan Area of Boston needed a greater supply of water, the Massachusetts Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission bought many acres of land in sections of North and West Rutland that were in the drainage areas of the Ware River, in order that water could be sent by means of a tunnel through solid rock under Rutland to the Wachusett Reservoir. The tunnel is three miles long and carries flood water from Coldbrook to West Boylston. In its construction, eight shafts were made down into the earth to reach solid rock and then worked in opposite directions to make one long tunnel. Four of those shafts are in Rutland, Shaft No. 4 is located near the Holden line close to East County Road, Shaft No. 5 is located near the center of the town, Shaft No. 6 is located off to the west of the lower part of Charnock Road and Shaft No. 7 is located near the Oakham town line. Shaft No. 5 is the deepest with a depth of 650 feet. The project began at Shaft No. 5 on March 29, 1927 and was completed several years later.

Among some of the local men having a part in its construction were Russel Erickson, Albert Scales, and Morris Viner. It should be mentioned, however, that there are more shafts also to the west of Coldbrook that lead to a tunnel taking water from the Coldbrook Station to Quabbin Reservoir.

## Rutland Common In The Late 1800's



The picture above shows some form of activity about to take place on the common. The church is the Congregational Church which

burned on November 13, 1926. The building with the flag is the school house that was moved later to Maple Avenue, becoming a Post Office and then the Maple Apartments. The third building is the town meeting house later moved down Main Street a short distance, becoming the Masonic Hall.



Gentleman in front is Dennis Smith, Postmaster — 1914-1922

## Common In 1914



Common today showing St. Patrick's Church, First Congregational Church and Fire House in the distance.



First Congregational Church and the Former Red Town Hall and School House. Insert: Rev. A. B. Pebbles, Pastor.

# The Congregational Church

The Puritan Colonists who formed the Massachusetts Bay Colony and settled in many areas of the state did not institute the Church of England, but established the Congregational Church, a parish with a meeting house where all business, church and civil, was transacted. Under similar circumstances the Rutland settlers would not decide on a spot for their own lots until the location of the meeting house had been determined. On June 7, 1720 it was decided to place the building near the southeast corner of the present old burying ground and a year later it was ready for use. On July 12, 1720, Rev. Joseph Willard was chosen to be the first minister but was killed by the Indians before he completed his settlement in the town. A second meeting house was built in 1759, but its position was in front of the first one. In 1830, however, this building was burned and the next three churches were built on the site of the present church, the third and fourth also being burned by fire. Of the five buildings, the first two were built out of town funds, and the other three were financed by the Congregational Society. In terms of long service, the Rev. Joseph Buckminster served as pastor from 1742-1792. It is recorded that every person in town who paid any taxes, paid a part of his salary. The financial support of the church was closely related to the taxes paid for town expenses, known as the Parish System. In 1891 the church voted to organize a corporation for religious worship and instruction in accordance with the faith and policy of the Congregational Churches and do away with the parish system.



*Present Congregational Church*

# St. Patrick's Church

There were no Catholic Churches in Rutland previous to 1861. The first Catholic people in Rutland attended Mass on occasion at Holy Cross College where Father Young conducted the service. The first Mass in Rutland was held April 1861 in West Rutland at the home of Daniel Spooner. In 1867 a house at the intersection of Prospect Street and Route 122 was purchased and refurnished at a cost of about \$800 where Mass could be celebrated. In 1871, Rutland was joined to Spencer as a parish. In 1881, the mission church in Rutland along with Holden went in with the Immaculate Conception parish of Worcester. The Catholic people of Rutland wishing to have a church of their own purchased the former Methodist Church that stood on the south side of Main Street opposite the boulder with the tablet bearing the names of World War I veterans.

About 1840 the Methodists formed a Church and a Society holding services in the Town Hall and in 1844 the Society built a house of worship. This church remained prosperous for several years but, in time, due to lack of support, was allowed to pass into private hands. It was then used as a harness shop and also as a boot shop. It was this building that the Rutland Catholic people bought May 29, 1882. After extensive repairs the new church was named St. Patrick's Church and was dedicated October 1, 1882. It was a mission church until 1938. As its membership grew, a new St. Patrick's Church was built on its present site celebrating its first Mass on Easter in 1958. The former St. Patrick's building and land was sold to the Town of Rutland and the building taken down.



Former St. Patrick's Church



Present St. Patrick's Church

# Schools

There were no schools for 20 years after the land grant as there was too great a danger to children from Indians and wild animals. In 1733, the town voted to hire a schoolmaster, who divided his time in teaching between the Center and West Rutland District. Two school houses were built in 1734, one in the center and the other southwest of Demond Pond. Nine school districts were formed in 1828 with more added within four years. They were as follows: — No. 1 Center, No. 2 North Rutland, (now the home of Vincent Alba), No. 3 Muschopauge (now the home of Francis LaCanfora), No. 4 Pound Hill, No. 5 South Road (now the home of Rey Boquist), No. 6 Dublin (near Rice-Griffin farm), No. 7 Deathville Barracks, No. 8 New Boston, No. 9 Sasewana Road (Fales') and No. 10 Onion Corner (Ketonen's). This list does not exactly represent the total number of district schoolhouses in operation over the many years, as there were some changes made in location and some loss by fire. The last to remain in operation were North Rutland and West Rutland, the former closing around 1928, and the latter closing about 1938. All the seventh and eighth grade pupils were transported by bus to West Rutland during the last ten years of its existence. The first high school class to graduate from Rutland High School was the Class of 1894 and the last class was the Class of 1954. During the last 27 years of the high school's existence, Edmund D. Kelsey served as principal. After 1954, Rutland, with four other towns, (Holden, Paxton, Princeton, and Sterling), became members of the Wachusett Regional High School District and high school students are now transported to Holden. The Wachusett Regional High School is the first of the now many Regional High Schools to exist in Massachusetts.



*North Rutland School*

# The Former Town Hall and School

The large red building that stood in the center of the town was a landmark for 66 years and no doubt brings back many fond memories of former happy occasions, such as school activities, dances, and other social gatherings that took place within its walls. The building was dedicated in 1899 and demolished in 1965. When first built, it was used for all public meetings and contained six classrooms and the public library. When the Community Hall was built, the building was then used entirely for school purposes. A playground and parking area marks the site where the building formerly stood.

With the passing of the large red schoolhouse, the new Naquag Elementary School was completed and ready for use in January 1965. It is a well built building with good facilities and functioning well. This new school and the unit in the rear of the Congregational Church now represents the complete elementary school facilities in Rutland today. Mr. Charles Varjian is the principal.



*Naquag Elementary School*



*Primary School*



*Town Hall and School*

# Becker Junior College

Becker Junior College will open a weekend college on the Rutland campus in the fall of this year. The college will continue to operate its campus, which is celebrating its 85th year of operation and will continue to provide education to more than 400 students in six fields of study.

The weekend college concept, a progressive approach to adult education was introduced recently by Lloyd H. Van Buskirk, President of Becker Junior College.

Many people further their education at various evening college programs and this effort on their part causes hardship on them with regard to their job responsibilities and upon their families. The weekend college will enable students to take their families to the Rutland campus and at the same time study toward an Associate in Science Degree.

The weekend college will provide many people an opportunity to continue to live a normal life by working during the week and attending college from Friday through Sunday.

The weekend program will be centered around individualized instruction, using available materials to allow a student to proceed as he is able. At the same time, the inflexible scheduling and the traditional number of weeks that courses are offered could be abandoned and Becker would establish ten-week cycles to allow more concentration on subjects in larger blocks of time. Convenience is the main objective of the new program. Hopefully, the weekend approach to education will be more realistic to the needs of our present day society.

Becker will grant college credit for people who have experience in various fields. For example, a housewife who has read widely, might earn credits in English or History. A business man without college training might earn credit in Accounting or Economics. A returning service man or technician could earn Mathematics or Science credits.

Initial response to the announcement about the weekend college has been very favorable. It appears that the weekend college will fill a void in adult education.

Becker Junior College congratulates the Town of Rutland on celebrating its 250th Anniversary and Becker looks forward to a lasting relationship with Rutland.

# Devereaux School

Located on Miles Road in Rutland is Devereaux School. This is a school of special education enrolling boys and girls ages six to sixteen who have encountered difficulties in school and require special programming to help alleviate their problems. It's a branch school under the Devereaux Foundation, Devon, Pennsylvania. The Rutland unit was opened in September 1965, with 22 students. Since that time additional cottages have been opened and an activity center has been constructed. At present, the school has 110 residents and eight day-students participating in a program that is specifically prepared to meet the needs of the individual child.



*Devereaux School*

# 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade Information

## PUBLIC PARKING:

Is available on Route 122A from the intersection of Route 56, all the way back to Holden. Also open to Public Parking, is on Route 122A (one side of the street only) from the town fire barn, to Charnock Hill Road. Parking is also open at Rufus Putnam Lodge Grounds, Naquag School, Rutland Congregational Church, Saint Patricks Church, Pom-mogusset Road, Memorial Field, Phillips Road, the Post Office, Edson Avenue, Forest Hill Drive, and a section of Bigelows Trailer Park.

## CONCESSION STAND:

The main concession stand is located at the rear of the Community Hall. From this point, vendors will work the parade route with cold drinks and ice cream. Mobile Refreshment vehicles will work the parade route.

## SOUVENIR STAND:

Will be located at the intersection of Route 122A and No. 56. Vendors will also be available for balloons, etc.

## BEER CONCESSION:

Can be found at the end of the parade route, located at union of Charnock Hill and Route 122A.

## RELIEF STATIONS:

If needed, can be found at the start of the parade route and at the end of the routé.

## FIRST AID UNITS:

There will be two first-aid units located in the center of town.

## PARADE REGISTRATION AND GATHERING AREA:

On Route 56 (Maple Avenue) from the State Hospital Gate, towards Paxton.

## DISPERSAL AREA:

Is at Charnock Hill and Route 122A.

## PARADE PARTICIPANTS:

Will and must report to Registration Booth on Maple Avenue. After receiving their assigned position in the parade, their means of transportation must deposit the unit and proceed to the point of dispersal — no vehicles or marchers will interrupt the parade. When a unit has finished parading, they may leave if they so wish by way of Route 122, north or south.

## Fund Raising Activities

At the first meeting of the 250th Anniversary Committee, appointed by the Selectmen, it was agreed that the expenses necessary to a celebration for the anniversary might be raised by personal donations, community and church organizations, and by the town-appointed committee.

Early in 1970 the town appropriated \$500.00 to cover the cost of printing and other necessary expenses. Since that time, and to the date of the printing of this historical booklet, it appears that a total in excess of \$13,000 has been received by the committee through volunteer efforts by individuals, groups, and by committee projects. This sum, in addition to others expected from planned programs, should make a total sufficient to cover the heavy expenses of an outstanding celebration culminating in a gigantic parade on Sunday, July 2nd, without increasing the burden of taxation.

Grateful appreciation is extended to the following groups who have enjoyed their work in making Rutland aware of its potential, and who are looking forward to a continuation of community interest and service in the years to come:

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; the Business and Professional Committee; the "Citizens of Rutland" production of the musicale, "Reflections" — directed by Mrs. Inez Kennedy; Devereaux School; the following First Congregational Church groups: the Choir, Monday Night Club, Senior Pioneers, Sunshine Circle, and Women's Union; the Lions Club; Naquag Elementary School; Naquag Post Veterans of Foreign Wars, and its Auxiliary; Persis Putnam Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star; Rufus Puantm Lodge, A.F. & A.M.; Rutland Enthusiasts; Rutland Fire Department, Fire Brigade and Auxiliary; Rutland 4-H Clubs; Rutland Grange; Rutland Parent-Teachers Association, Rutland Players Club, under the direciton of Mrs. Polly Briggs; Rutland Post American Legion; Rutland Recreational Council, Inc.; Rutland Retirees; Rutland Ski Area, Inc.; Rutland Sportsmen's Club; Rutland Variety Store; St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church; Western Riders; and others who are to raise funds after May 15th, (the deadline for the printing of this historical booklet).

In addition to this list, the Town Anniversary Committee has raised a considerable sum on special projects sponsored by them; individuals have contributed liberally from their personal funds; and the Men's and Women's Divisions, along with the "Brothers of the Brush" and the "Rutland Belles," have all participated in the financial and advertising program of the celebration. Of special interest was the fund-raising entertainments of two youth groups of the town, one bringing in \$2.20, and the other, \$10.00.

Detailed financial accounting will appear in the 1973 Annual Town Report.

Special thanks are expressed to James MacCallum, Sr., for making and setting up the excellent roadside signs; to Edmund D. Kelsey and his committee for their labors in preparing this booklet, and to all who have generously given of their time and talents to the success of Rutland's quarter millennium anniversary.

ALBERT J. THOMAS

MRS. MARGARET C. GORDON

MRS. CHARLOTTE E. JUDKINS

JOHN COLLINS

FREDERICK H. MATHEWS

DAVID E. ANDERSON

*250th Anniversary Committee*



PARADE ROUTE -----

PUBLIC PARKING #####



# Program of Events

MONDAY, JUNE 18:

“Founders Day” — Selectmen’s Proclamation, speakers, and the raising of the new Rutland Flag.

## THE NINE-DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 24:

Firemen’s Parade, muster, and chicken barbecue, starting at 11:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25:

Ecumenical Service, Naquag School. Service under the direction of Rev. Richard S. Pryce and Rev. Edgar Pelletier, with Rev. John F. Burke, Pastor of St. Pauls Cathedral and Chairman of Ecumenical Committee in the Worcester Diocese and Rev. Donald A. Simpson, Worcester Area Minister of the United Church of Christ, as the principal speakers, — Music under the combined choirs of the Rutland Churches, under the direction of Mrs. Edward E. Stockman. 4:00 P.M.

MONDAY, JUNE 26:

Spelling Bee, Rutland Common, 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 27:

Naquag Elementary School: Open House and student’s art exhibit and art demonstration. 6 P.M. to 9 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28:

Youth Night, School Auditorium. 8 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29:

“Musical Reflections” in three parts, under the direction of Mrs. Inez Kennedy.

FRIDAY, JUNE 30:

Rutland High School Alumni Banquet at Holden House, 6:00 P.M., followed by the Alumni Ball in the Naquag School Auditorium, 8:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JULY 1:

Sports Day, Frank Taylor, Chairman.

Boy’s Baseball ..... 9 — 10:30 A.M.  
Charles Marsh

Children’s Events ..... 12:15  
Robert Taylor

Hole-In-One Contest ..... 12:30 — 2:30 P.M.  
Gerry Berry

Soccer Game ..... 3 — 5 P.M.  
Charles Campbell

Road Race ..... 6 P.M.  
Two Races for different ages

Charles Marsh — Dr. Rockwood Thayer

Boxing ..... 8:15 P.M.  
Robert Zoppo — Richard Griffin

SUNDAY, JULY 2:

250th Anniversary Parade, starting at 1:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, JULY 4:

Fred Davis, Chairman

Donkey Baseball 1:30 P.M. in charge of Boy’s League, Charles Marsh. Strawberry Festival 4:30 P.M. Band Concert 7 P.M.

# The Old Tavern

In 1762, Isaac Stone built an addition to the old Parsonage which had been erected for Rev. Joseph Willard, and then used this building as a tavern. It was operated for more than a hundred years as the "Half-Way House" between Northhampton and Boston. In 1880, Charles R. Bartlett bought the property, tore the old tavern down, and built the Muschopauge House in 1883.



*Tavern and Monument*

Several of the Rutland Veterans of the Civil War, after their return to their homes, organized a Grand Army post under the name of the Major George C. Marshall Post, No. 136. Early in the life of the Post, a Soldiers Monument fund was raised and a monument was erected, and the dedication took place on July 31, 1879. The monument is now in front of the Community Hall. Soldier destroyed by 1938 hurricane.



*Hotel Bartlett*



*Community Hall*

# The Muschopauge House

Built in 1883 on the historic spot of the old tavern and the present Community Hall by Charles R. Bartlett, a native of Rutland; and Lorenzo Q. Spaulding, a businessman from Worcester; the "Muschopauge House" from the very start did a wonderful business in those good old "Horse and Buggy days" of the late 1800's and the early 1900's.

Enlarged after it's few years, the hotel finally had accommodations for more than 100 overnight guests to say nothing of a large number of "transients" from out of town who came to enjoy the dinners for which the hotel was always famous. Meanwhile across the lawn and connected by a board walk, the "Spaulding House" had been built by Mr. Spaulding when he sold his interest in the hotel to Mr. Bartlett in 1887. Also known as "The Cottage", this building served as an annex to the hotel affording still more accommodations. Guests of those days liked driving by horse and carriage throughout Rutland's beautiful countryside. One of the most popular "all day" trips was the one to the summit of Mt. Wachusett from where signals by mirror would often be flashed back and forth to the Rutland Hotel. Coaching parades in Rutland were exciting events which drew hundreds of people from nearby communities.

Owing to the fact that the train stops at the Muschopauge station were announced as the "Sanatorium Station" the Muschopauge House changed it's name to Hotel Bartlett. After the death of Mr. Charles Bartlett in 1915, the business was carried on by the Bartlett estate until the property was sold to the town of Rutland in 1929. The coming of the automobiles and the passing of horse and carriage means of travel was a factor in hurting the summer hotel business. It is interesting to note that the second son of Charles R. Bartlett, an architect, had much to do with the remodeling and enlargement of the hotel at various times. He was also the architect selected to design the present Community Hall.



*The Muschopauge House*



*Stable, Carriage House and Pump House*

# The Visit of Rhode Island Senators

A highlight in the existence of Hotel Bartlett started on a Sunday evening about 11 p.m. on June 22, 1924 when 35 or 40 men and a few women straggled into the hotel looking for accommodations. They were Republican Senators from Rhode Island leaving the state in order to prevent the passage of certain legislative bills by causing a situation such as lack of quorum. They stayed in Rutland for six months, leaving after a big party was held for them on the eve of the opening of the Rhode Island Senate on January 6, 1925.

During their stay in Rutland, there was an air of enjoyment and active participation in events, such as full utilization of the hotel recreational facilities and joining in with the townspeople during the celebration of special programs. Instances of familiar local names mentioned during their stay may be worthy of note, such as the visit to Griffin's Store and Bulfinch's Market the morning of their arrival to get those "bacon and eggs" and other breakfast necessities. Since the hotel seldom remained open after the middle of October and the Senators stayed on, it was decided to install steam heat in a section of the hotel. On several occasions, Herbert Prouty, the hotel plumbing advisor, was summoned to thaw out the pipes.

## Concord Coach of Hotel Bartlett

The Coach was procured by Mr. Charles R. Bartlett in the late 1890's and was housed in the hotel stable. The Coach spent upwards of 30 years as one of the main attractions in the town of Rutland. This "Tally-Ho" coach, always drawn by four horses, took part in many coaching parades and won many awards. It was sold by the Bartlett Estate to Mr. Henry Johnson, in January 1929, and was used in another community. In 1931 the coach became a part of the Farm Museum Collection in Hadley, Mass. where it can be seen to-day. Due to its service in another community it is now marked "Hampshire House".



*Concord Coach and Rhode Island Senators*

## Community Hall

In the thirties, the town was faced with the problem of finding more school rooms and at the same time more room for town officials. Up to this time the former Town Hall housed the school, library, and selectmen's rooms. The resulting decision in regard to this problem was the construction of the Community Hall in 1939. With a dining room in the basement, town offices and town library on the main floor, and a meeting hall on the second floor, this building has served the town very well for several years, and is still the heart of many community activities. The library has since moved to its new building, leaving room for needed town office expansion. In May 1972, an office was made ready for the town clerk. It is interesting to note that this is the first time in the history of the town that the clerk's office is no longer in a private home. It is also interesting to note that the office of the town clerk has been in one family for 104 years, George A. Putnam, 1863-1895, Louis Hanff, 1896-1936, Mrs. Louis Hanff, 1937-1949, Miss Linda Hanff, 1949-1967, Mrs. Irene T. Amsden is the present clerk.

## Rutland Free Public Library

The General Court of Massachusetts, in 1851, authorized the establishment of Free Public Libraries in towns on the acceptance by vote of the town. As a result of the town meeting held March 15, 1866, one hundred dollars was appropriated for a public library and George A. Putnam was appointed to be the librarian. The library was set up in the home of Mr. Putnam, now the residence of Edward Bracebridge on Main Street. The first library committee was Dr. B. H. Tripp, James A. Smith, and J. Warren Bigelow. The location of the library was also in the home of Almina Foster and the Prouty house. For several years it was in the southeast corner of the former High School building. On April 22, 1939, it was opened in the newly constructed Community Hall. The present new library was officially opened May 2, 1971 and with its colorful interior is a fine addition to Rutland's community buildings. The new library can hold 14,000 volumes. At the present time, there are approximately 10,000 volumes. The following persons have served as librarians: George A. Putnam 1866-1875, Sarah Taylor 1876-1878, Almina A. Foster 1879-1898, Mrs. E. J. Prouty 1899-1914, Charlotte Drury 1915-1919, Edna Wheeler 1920-1939, Linda Hanff 1940-1964, Albina B. Murphy 1965 to the present time.

## Sanatoria



*Rutland Sanatorium*

Owing to the fact that Rutland has plenty of fresh air and sunlight, Rutland became a center for institutions for the care of tubercular patients. The State Sanatorium, built in 1898, was the first such state institution of its kind in the U. S. The Central New England Sanatorium became the Rutland Training Center and is now the Devereaux School. There were many other smaller private homes in which tubercular patients were treated while waiting to be admitted to the larger institution. Among these were the Huntress House, Summit House, Clark House, Winslow's, DeLong's, Nihin's, McBride Home, Maple Lodge, and two Crane Sanatoria. The Jewish Sanatorium was a small complex which stood on the present site of the Naquag Elementary School.

The United States Veterans Bureau purchased the Crane Sanatorium which had been built on 86 acres on Maple Avenue. This institution grew to the large Veterans Hospital which was subsequently sold to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is now known as the Rutland Heights Hospital.



*Jewish Sanatorium*

# The Former State Sanatorium

The General Court of 1895 provided for the building of a hospital for the treatment of tubercular patients, and a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The site selected was an area on Muschopauge Hill in Rutland and when it came to the question of a water supply, it was found that the same session that passed the act for the hospital also passed one granting to the town a right to take water from Muschopauge Lake for domestic or other purposes. The State Sanatorium started its building in 1896 and, on October 10, 1898, it was opened for patients. The capacity of the sanatorium when it first opened was 175 patients and reached 250 by 1904, and expanded to 375.

Fur coats were issued and rented by the patients for use in their outdoor activities. These, with heavy woolen blankets, helped the patient survive the long cold winters. Many times the early morning workers found it necessary to shovel snow from the porches where the patient had spent the night.

In 1902, the Rutland State Sanatorium School for Nurses opened under the supervision of Miss Mary E. Thrasher. In 1916, Delya E. Nardi took over and built the school into a fine accredited school with affiliations in Worcester City Hospital, Cooley-Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, Floating Hospital and City Hospital in Boston. The school closed in 1939 with the last class graduating in 1938. There were 229 graduates, 14 of whom now reside in Rutland.

At this time, Ernest B. Emerson, M.D. was superintendent of the hospital (1917-1944).

With the advent of new methods in the treatment of tuberculosis, the disease was no longer a menace and patients no longer needed to remain in the hospital for long periods. On February 26, 1963, the Rutland State Sanatorium was closed and converted to a hospital for chronic disease, the name changed to Rutland Hospital.

Paul Dufault, M.D. was the last superintendent of the hospital while tuberculosis was treated, and Gabriel Nadeau, M.D. was superintendent until he was transferred to Rutland Heights on November 1, 1965. The property is now owned by Becker Junior College.



Rutland State Sanatorium

# Veterans Administration Hospital

In 1921, Dr. Bayard Crane, the founder of the Crane Sanatorium, acquired 86 acres of land on the west of Maple Avenue in Rutland as a site for a hospital.

After an administration building had been erected, he sold the property to the United States Veterans Bureau.

The Veterans Bureau had been planning to build a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis among the World War I and Spanish War Veterans, who were residents of New England.

The Veterans Bureau added several buildings at the site purchased from Dr. Crane and, in July 1922, Dr. Joseph Wallace was appointed as Director of the hospital.

On May 14, 1923, the first patient, Edward Hickey, was admitted from the Summit House, a private sanatorium in Rutland.

Tubercular patients were treated at the hospital for several years until their number decreased because of successful treatment.

In 1936, the Veterans Hospital was converted to general medical with a capacity of 467 beds: 288 beds for tuberculosis patients and 179 for general medical and surgery cases.

Reverting to the care of tuberculosis in 1943, the first use of chemo-therapy for treatment of tuberculosis was established with good results. A lower death rate from tuberculosis resulted in changing to general medical status.

However, the Government suddenly decided, as an economy measure, to close this hospital, along with several others about the country. At the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1965, the Rutland Veterans' Hospital closed its doors.



Veterans Administration Hospital

# Industry

Industries grew in Rutland, farming and building were of necessity first. Then early grist mills, saw mills, shingle mills, blacksmith shops, tannery and currier came into existence. Later, wagons, sleighs, cabinets, chairs, furniture, rakes, strawbraid, and palm-leaf hats were manufactured. The industries of West and North Rutland have been mentioned on previous pages.

## GENERAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

Intervale Road

For many years, the industry familiar to Rutland residents has been the manufacture of wooden heels on Intervale Road under the management of members of the Grenier family. However, a different type of industry is now in operation. General Industries was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on July 19, 1967. General, at that time, acquired the assets of Intervale Industries, Rutland. This included all land, buildings, and equipment of Intervale. Mr. Wilfred J. Grenier, former President of Intervale, became Vice-President, Research and Development for General Industries. President of General Industries is Mr. John P. Ferris, a former police official in the city of Worcester. General Industries, for the past five years, has been involved in a program of research and development in new concepts in valving.

As a part of the General research and development project is a new concept in the fighting of fires, it became necessary for General to become acquainted with all the rules, laws and codes of the National Fire Protection Association. A new type automatic fire sprinkler head was developed by General that will shortly be introduced to the marketplace. This new head is completely automatic in its operation and is the first sprinkler head to employ an on and off feature. This means that the head automatically shuts off after it has put out the fire, and is again ready for use if called upon. At the present time, General is involved in a transaction that will take it from a full research and development factor to one that will be part manufacture and part development.

## J. FRANK SIMS CAB COMPANY

In 1953, J. Frank Sims recognized the need for tractor cabs for weather protection of the operator for industrial tractors and formed a company to assemble and distribute all-weather tractor cabs to franchised dealers throughout the U.S.A., Canada, and export market.

In 1957, J. Frank Sims Co. Inc. purchased buildings and land in Rutland and began to manufacture cabs. The concern now employs seventy people and Mr. Charles Paquette is general manager.

In order to increase their participation in the Canadian market, a subsidiary corporation was formed in 1965 and since most of the major tractor manufacturers are located in the midwest, a plant was purchased in Payne, Ohio, and began operations there in 1968. It is of local interest to note that Donald Follansbee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Follansbee is the general manager of this plant.

The Rutland plant is the main office of the corporation.



*J. Frank Sims Cab Company*

# Recreation

With considerable open country, fresh air, and sunshine, Rutland has a climate favorable for many outdoor activities, such as boating, hiking, hunting, fishing, skating, skiing, and others. Fishing for many years has been a popular activity on several of the ponds. Since the entire area of Long Pond has become a state park of the Commonwealth, a bathing beach and picnic area are now in operation in the northern sector while boating and water skiing are enjoyed by many in the southern sector. The swimming pool in the rear of Community Hall was built by the D.M.C. when bathing became prohibited in the popular bathing area of Long Pond. The adjacent athletic field is the scene of many baseball and football games. The Rutland Ski Area, Inc., owned and operated by the Raymond Klines, on Pommogussett Road, is in operation in the winter.

The Rutland Recreational Council, since its incorporation in 1948, has been instrumental in seeing that many activities function in Rutland, such as Halloween Parties, Basketball Jamboree, Winter Carnival, and the entire Fourth of July Celebration.



Parade  
Committee  
1958



Rutland  
Grange  
Float  
1957



*Rutland Fife & Drum Corps*



*Little League*



*Highland Park Float*



*Corps on Maple Avenue*

# Former Inns

It would take a special publication and time to make note of the many old buildings that still stand in Rutland. As new owners take possession, changes are generally made and only certain sections of the original building are left. The few houses selected to appear on the pages of this booklet are due to the fact that more information is known about their historic background and their ownership.

As a part of the 250th Anniversary Celebration, the Rutland Historical Society is sponsoring a project whereby house owners may have a date sign made that can be placed on their building. Members of this committee are Mrs. Thomas Morton, Mrs. Harriet Hartson, Mrs. James Meagher, and Edmund D. Kelsey. As some owners know only approximate dates, the letter 'C' may appear in front of the date. The letter 'C' refers to the word Circa, meaning "about."

Taverns or inns were a very important part of the life of early Rutland, not only for the rest and refreshment of travelers, but also for places of social and business meetings. For these reasons, most inns were found near the center of town or along the traveled road.

Among the many taverns listed in history books are the following: The first tavern built by Capt. Samuel Wright, the "Tavern House," built by Isaac Stone, the Province Farm, the Ring Tavern, the Read Tavern, the Sibley Tavern, and the Wood Tavern.

Today, there are only two buildings in Rutland believed to have been taverns. One is the home of Mrs. Harriet Hartson, situated on the corner of Wachusett Street and Route 68. The original grant of the land was given to James Smith by the King of England in the early years before the Revolution. It was the home of Martha Smith, the station agent of the Muschopauge Station for many years. Like many old homes, interesting features of the colonial home are still in evidence, such as fireplaces, original plaster dado, large floor boards having square cut nails, and wide board wains-coating. The large front door came from England. Most of the hinges in the house are Norfall hinges, made of a combination of forged iron and pewter. The attic reveals large beams, square cut nails and pegs, and beams inserted into the chimney to allow for sway when the wind blows.



*Martha Smith house — 1900*



*Above house, now owned by Mrs. Harriet Hartson*

The second former tavern is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Morrill on Davis Street.

Built in 1752 by Captain Jason Reed, the house was the original Stage Coach Stop between Boston and Keene, N. H. The house was purchased from Captain Reed by a family named Davis. At that time, the whole of Davis Street belonged to the farm, but land was eventually given to some of the Davis children so that only 98 acres of the original farm is left.

Up in one of the back fields is an area where the Indians had their camping grounds. They laid down flat rocks to put the tents on and one of the rocks they used to grind corn on is on the Common in Rutland.



*Former Jason Reed Tavern  
now home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Morrill*

#### **RESIDENCE OF THE BUCK FAMILY**

Believed to be the original home first occupied by the Briant family about 1750. Mr. Briant had purchased the farm from John and James Walker. William H. Hammond bought the property in 1880. There are indications that an area in the house could be used by the family to hide from the Indians.

After a series of sales by previous owners, the property was purchased by G. Pauline Stowe in 1935. Mrs. Stowe sold to the present proprietor, George E. Buck on November 10, 1948.



*Buck family residence*

#### **RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. DONALD MARTIN**

In 1730, Peter Davis married Rebecca Hopkinson of Rowley, Mass., and brought his bride to Rutland to live. They settled on the land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martin on Pommogussett Road. Peter was a mechanical genius and businessman. He built one of the first saw and grist mills in the northern part of the town. He filled several offices in the proprietary town and militia. In August, 1757, he marched to the relief of Fort William Henry in New York during the French and Indian War. He and his wife had seven children. Asa Davis, one of Peter's sons, took over and continued the operation of the saw and grist mill. He had eleven children who grew to maturity on Pommogussett Road. In Rudd's History of Rutland he is mentioned as Lieutenant Asa Davis who marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. It is the descendants of this family who brought into being the Asa Davis Association which is still functioning. The Association meets one day a year socially to keep in touch and acquaint each other with related family incidents past and present.



*Home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martin*

## HOME OF MR. AND MRS. EDWARD BRACEBRIDGE

Built in 1769 and sold in 1867 by Franklin Hathaway to George A. Putnam. The Putnam family took summer boarders, many of whom stayed all summer.



*Home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bracebridge*

### HISTORY OF THE STONE-REDFIELD HOME ON CAMPBELL STREET, RUTLAND

The land on which the house at 1 Campbell Street now stands was originally part of a nine hundred acre tract bought by Captain Samuel Stone of Sudbury, Mass., from the first six proprietors of Rutland, probably around 1720-22. He had purchased this vast acreage with the intent of settling his four sons on it. Three of his sons, Samuel Jr., Jonas and Isaac were among the first settlers who cleared the land and set up the town. Several years later, in 1739, a fourth son, Nathan, then only 18 year old, moved to Rutland and built a home for himself and his bride. It is Nathan Stone's home which still stands and forms a part of the house at 1 Campbell Street. The lot he selected was only a quarter mile from the home built by his brother Samuel, Jr., on the site of the present home of W. Makinen.

On May 4, 1847, it was Willard Stone, grandson of Nathan Stone, who sold the farm out of the Stone Family for the first time.

A Jeremiah Eaton bought the Stone farm for \$2,500. Eaton did not hold on to the property long. Two years later on January 6, 1849, he sold it (the house and 150 acres) to John C. Greenleaf for \$2,250. Some people (oldtimers) still refer to the property as the "Greenleaf place". Greenleaf increased his holdings considerably, although the farm was broken up and reduced to its present size once more. Greenleaf sold land to Furbush around 1850, and it was by Furbush that the home now owned by Frederick Warren was built.

Charles H. Allen bought the farm from Greenleaf in 1884, but sold in 1889 to Israel N. Keyes. Keyes sold that year to Marion Early. Mrs. Early lived there until she sold to E. Baxter Johnson in 1909. Johnson held the property until 1916 when he sold to Eugene Currier. Currier and his family worked the farm until 1939. This time the land was bought by Eleanor and Ernest Redfield. It remains in the Redfield

family at the present time having passed to Addison and Virginia Redfield in 1971.

Some of the features of the house are exposed beams, with peg construction, original paneling, mantles and wainscoating in the section built by Nathan Stone in 1739. The section built by Willard Stone is still very much as it must have appeared when that successful farmer built it in the early 1800's. The woodwork is all original.



*The Stone-Redfield House*



*Stone-Redfield fireplace*

In 1749 Ebenezer Frost built a fine big house on Wood Hill, a hill east of Maple Avenue, near the Paxton line. When roads finally came to Rutland, the Frost property was bisected by the Providence to Keene Great Road from south to north. This is now Route No. 56. The property was bi-sected by another road east to west called Irish Lane because it was constructed by two surveyors and engineers who were graduates of the University of Dublin in Ireland.

In 1790, the son of Ebenezer Frost moved the buildings from the top of Wood Hill to the present site. In 1851, the property was sold to Luther Howard. The Frost House remained idle for almost twenty years, became run down and earned the reputation of being haunted. Luther Howard sold the House with 170 acres of land to Michael Cullen. The property is now occupied by Archer Parquette, a grandson of Michael Cullen.



*The Frost-Cullen House*



## HISTORY OF THE SPRINGER HOUSE

This house was built by Abraham Wheeler in 1720. It descended to his son, Captain Rowland Wheeler, from him to his son, Paul Wheeler, who sold it to Zebulon Strong. Paul Wheeler is the grandfather of Edna and Phyllis Wheeler, and Mrs. Ethel Moore. It is Paul Wheeler who manufactured hickory and oak axe and hammer handles in his mill. A copy of the original deed was owned by James W. Strong, a son of one of the owners. Mr. F. Harold Daniels of Worcester, Mass. bought the house in 1928. It is now owned by the Worcester Museum of Natural History.

The original tract of land consisted of 800 acres. The present tract is 325 acres.

The house has 10 rooms with wide boards and the original wainscoating. The house still has its original lines. At one time, there were seven wells on the property, all of which are now filled in. There is another well beside the house, and one in the cellar where they used to hide the children from the Indians. This well was wide and shallow.

Across the street there stood a large barn that was approximately 75 feet long.

Extending in back of the original house there was a series of small sheds, consisting of a woodshed, smokehouse, etc.

This property is located on Sassawanna Road.



*Springer House*



*Griffin's General Store  
now Rutland Variety Store*



# The Finnish People Come to Rutland

After World War I, a number of Finnish families settled in Rutland. They bought what farms were available with the money they had saved from working in Worcester's mills and factories. Prudent farmers, schooled in the ways of the old country, they transformed many of Rutland's unproductive farms into productive ones. About the first Finns were the Heiniluomas, the Luukkos, the Mattsons, the Liimatainen brothers and the Taipale brothers and their families.

Unlike the Finnish farmers who settled in the towns to the north of Rutland and formed co-operatives to market their farm products and purchase their necessities, the farmers in Rutland remained rather independent. Most started with small herds gradually increasing as the farms expanded to support larger herds and other sidelines. Two of the farms grew to the point where they were able to bottle their own milk. Hendrick's Laurel Hill Dairy on Glenwood Road (the present Taylor home and Heiniluoma's Rutland Dairy on Maple Avenue (the present Rotti farm), delivered milk in Rutland and Worcester as well as many of the surrounding towns.

As the years went by poultry farms became popular. Soon the Finnish poultry farms were supplying eggs for the local market as well as sending thousand of dozens of eggs each week to the Boston and New York markets.

One of the reasons for the success of the farms was the farm wives. As the men worked hard, the women worked harder! Besides raising their families and keeping their houses spotless, they maintained the gardens, milked the cows and kept the hens. Many of these women ran the farm themselves while the husbands worked away from home. These women, recognizable by their ever present white kerchiefs, still found time to keep the sauna hot, bake coffee bread, and keep the coffee pot filled for their families and friends.

Other Finns followed to Rutland, some to the farms, but many found work as carpenters or masons or as employees in one of Rutland's hospitals. Many of the homes in town were built by these later immigrants.

Like the farmers, most of these newcomers soon built saunas near their homes. Though saunas are only recently enjoying widespread popularity in this country, Rutland with her Finnish population has had at least forty of them. Some of these have been here for over fifty years.

Most of the Finns in town were members of the Finnish Temperance Society in Worcester. The Temperance movement popular in Finland at the turn of the century was brought to this country and activated wherever the Finns settled. In 1925 the Worcester group bought 12 acres of land with 1,000' of water frontage on Demond Pond from the Hautio farm (the present Morrow Farm). By 1927 the dance hall, built entirely by volunteer labor, was ready for use. Members built camps and saunas in the area and Sovittaja Park came into existence. The park itself with its 40' by 50' maple dance floor and

stage, kitchen facilities, picnic grove, ballfield and running track has been an active place over the years. Dances were held twice a week in the summer, picnics and track meets were held frequently and birthday and anniversary parties held almost constantly. The traditional Finnish "Juhannus" or mid-summer celebration has been held annually on the longest day of the year. In Finland the sun does not set for 3 days each June.

The park continues to be popular today, maintained and enjoyed by new generations of Finnish-Americans. Dances are still held on Saturday nights in the summer, as well as parties, dinners and frequent celebrations. In 1969 the group sold its Worcester hall to Prospect House. Consequently, the park is now used from spring through fall with winter activities held in surrounding towns and Community Hall. Most of the thirty camps and eleven saunas are still owned by the original builder or their families and are enjoyed thoroughly each summer. The saunas are as popular as ever especially those on the shore.

Most of the early Finns are gone now but their names are still in town. Many of the second and third generation of Finnish-Americans, proud of both heritages, still live in Rutland or enjoy their summers here.

## Cemeteries

Much of the History of a Town is reflected in the markings and legends found on the burial markers within the boundaries of its Cemeteries and Burial Grounds. The family names of the early settlers, their occupations, their beliefs, and sometimes their hopes are there for all to see.

Land for the Old Burial Ground in Rutland was set aside during the survey of 1715. This site is now beside the present Fire House and was used until 1842. Within its boundaries are many markers bearing such family names as Wheeler, Smith, Parmenter, Davis, Hubbard, Rice, Skinner, Miles, Hammond, Buss, Child, Bridge, Hooker, Brooks, Sawyer, etc. Over the brow of the hill toward the back corner of the cemetery, is an old earth vault which has the name Frink over the entrance. Elsewhere is a marker to the memory of Dr. John Frink. Standing close to the border nearest the Fire House, is a large stone indicating the resting place of Rev. Joseph Buckminster. The legend on the stone reads as follows: "In memory of the Rev. Joseph Buckminster for more than 50 years Pastor of the Church in Rutland who departed this life November 3rd, 1792 in the 73rd year of his age. He was distinguished for intellectual ability and ministerial fidelity and zeal and endured for a long time the distresses of a cancerous complaint which finally terminated his days. This grave contains all that could die. His Spirit dwells with God on high."

Upon a knoll on Charnock Hill Road in the North West section of Rutland, we find Goose Hill Cemetery. This area was known as New Boston and the gravestones designate the burial places of many of the residents of that thriving industrial section. Family names found here are: Smith, Stratton, Wheeler, Read, Roper, Billings, Strong, Skinner, Hooker, Gates, Adams, Ball, etc. Among the earliest graves is that

of one wife of Joseph Gates. We find three stones in a row, for Joseph Gates, and his two wives, each named Sarah. The first Sarah passed away in 1813, and the second Sarah followed in 1820. Here also is a grave with the legend: "Oliver Chickering, Born Dedham 1753, Died Rutland, 1831, One of the Minutemen called out by Paul Revere, Discharged 1781." Nearby lies his son, Nathaniel, 1775-1753, and Nathaniel's wife, Nelly died, 1829.

The West Rutland Cemetery is located off Route 122 behind the State Rest Area. It is reached by walking down a tree-shaded road to an area behind the trees. Here, in a small section surrounded by woods, lie the remains of many who once lived in the bustling community known as West Rutland. This was at one time, a private cemetery owned by those who lived in the area. Such names as Putnam, Parks, Rice, Chickering, Mullen, Taylor, Bartlett, Covell, Smith, Ware, Barker, Quimby, Peirce, Newcomb, are found here. Graves of Veterans of the Civil War are found in this place, such as; "L. F. Allen Co. 1 35 N. Y. Inf."; "J. E. Childs 10th Mass. Battery"; "L. W. Gates Co. F 42nd Mass. Inf".

Rural Cemetery was established on June 30, 1842, by the Rural Cemetery Association of Rutland. At first it consisted of three acres and 86 rods and was later enlarged to include the purchase of two acres and 40 rods. Roads were built, lots laid out, and the Cemetery was publicly consecrated October 8, 1842. Rev. Josiah Clark presented the address, assisted by Rev. Mr. Ainsworth and Rev. Mr. Phipps of Paxton. This cemetery, which is located at the foot of Pound Hill on Route 122A, is still presently in use. One would find the loved ones of many Rutland families resting here as well as strangers to the town. In one section are the graves of veterans who died while patients at the United States Veterans Hospital, the present Rutland Heights Hospital. These men, having no known relatives, were laid to rest here in unmarked graves. However, through the efforts of the Rutland Post of the VFW, markers were obtained from the Federal Government and these men are now known. Within the town of Rutland, there are two private cemeteries. Not a great deal is known about these plots. One is situated off Wachusett Street on the right side as you come toward the center of the town. This is on the hill after the road crosses Route 68. Here lie the members of the Smith family who owned, at one time, all that land and the present Stagecoach Stop of Mrs. Harriett Hartson. The second small private cemetery was found in the field off Prospect Street overlooking Demond Pond. Here we find stones with the names "Mrs. Sarah Putnam, September 18, 1824"; Captain Archelaus Putnam, January 14, 1809"; and "Andrew Putnam, August 8, 1869."



# Local Associations

## PLAYERS CLUB

"Arsenic and Old Lace" held in the old red school was the debut of the Rutland Players Club which was formed in 1961 by Priscilla Briggs. Under her direction, the cast has produced fine shows yearly to support activities of the PTA and the Boy Scouts.

## PTA

As a universal goal of all PTA's, Rutland's organization was established to promote teacher and family understanding and to provide the best education for Rutland's youth. They also provide a scholarship to deserving young people in memory of Donald Marsh, Principal of the Grammar School and Robert "Pete" Harding, a student, who both lost their lives in the tornado of 1953.

## RUFAS PUTNAM LODGE AF & AM

Rufus Putnam Lodge was chartered in Rutland on July 1, 1913 as a fraternal organization devoted to charitable and educational work. Among the present membership, Bill Hunt and Bill Read have served many years having been Masters in 1933-23, and 1930-31 respectively.

## RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1965, a group of interested citizens formed an organization to try to preserve Rutland's history. Eventually, they would like to acquire a permanent residence where the materials and articles which have been donated may be displayed.

## GRANGE NO. 242

Patrons of Husbandry, or the Grange, is one of Rutland's oldest organizations. Established in 1875, its purpose was to give aid to farmers during difficult times. Presently, it is a social group of people from all walks of life who have community interests as their projects.

## BETA SIGMA PHI

Rutland residents have had opportunities to receive scholarships to continue their education through the efforts of some organizations. One of these groups is a sorority, a social and cultural group, who award the John Heaney Memorial Scholarship yearly to deserving people.

## 4-H

4-H is an active organization for the youth, ages 9-19. Through projects which may vary from animal care to sewing and horticulture, to safety, the 4-H'er 'Learns by Doing.' Many Rutland 4-H'ers have and are receiving local, state, and national recognition for their achievements.

## ADULT DRUM CORPS

This year a group of interested people have organized their own corps. It will be independently run and they will be playing for their own pleasure and their listeners' pleasure, too.

## GIRL SCOUTS & BROWNIES

Rutland's Troop, along with most other troops, try to develop in

the girls a sense of pride in all the work they do. By selling cookies to townspeople, they have helped themselves to continue their projects.

#### FIRE BRIGADE

Three members formed a Brigade in 1896 which has grown into a fine team of men. The muster team is the current champion of the Naquag Muster League and will continue to enter in competitions as well as serving the town in many functions. The 1925 American-LaFrance truck was rebuilt in 1966, was purchased in 1963 upon its retirement for the sum of \$1 and it is indeed a conversation piece for our town.

#### RUTLAND FIFE & DRUM CORPS

Rutland can be very proud of this Corps, which has given outstanding performances around the state. These young people — grammar school to age 21, — along with their advisors, have been State Champions more than once and the Color Guard has received Northeast Championship. Practice, patient guidance, and spirit, is keeping this unit among the outstanding in demand, and we appreciate their performance.

#### VFW AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1950 primarily to work in conjunction with the men of Naquag Post No. 6716. The women participate in various commemorative services held during the year in honor of all men who have served or are serving our country in foreign lands.

#### LIONS CLUB

One of the newest groups in Rutland is the Lions Club, organized in November of 1971. Like similar chapters, they are concerned with the Prevention of Blindness and assistance to the Blind. A current project is sponsoring a pre-school eye clinic for the detection of eye problems, which might prevent a successful start in some child's school career.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GROUP

The Men's Club now inactive, the Women's Union, Monday Night Club, Sunshine Circle, Junior and Senior Pioneers, have not only supported the church in many ways, but have also supported the town in various functions. There is always a group willing to fill a need, especially during the events the Recreational Council plans yearly.

#### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

The Womens' Guild, now inactive, and the Catholic Youth Council, have also worked to support the town. Their Sunflower Festival is always a crowd gatherer during the summer months.

#### RUTLAND BOYS LEAGUE, INC.

The League has provided excitement and good sports for many years and became incorporated in 1972. As of this year, there are four Little League teams, one Babe Ruth and one Farm League. An outstanding project is facing them now, and that is — making an athletic field out of the former town dump. Girls games may be included in the near future.

## PERSIS PUTNAM CHAPTER ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

The women of the Star work along with the Master Masons to bring practical support to truth, relief, and brotherly love. Persis Putnam Chapter, as well as others, gives scholarships to youth and provides care for the aged.

## SPORTMAN'S CLUB

Outdoor sports enthusiasts got together in 1932 to pool their resources. Competitions and trials are held here with the Rutland Club acting as hosts. Members also stock hare, birds and trouts. Fish stories are prevalent and eyes get big as the children participate in the fishing derby. Gourmets delight also in the Annual Game Dinner that the men hunt and then prepare for hearty appetites.

## RUTLAND ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB

This club, founded in 1965 by five local men, exists to promote the preservation and restoration of antique autos. Charter members are Harry Johnson, Jr., Edwin Buck, William Johnson, Richard Miller, and Thomas Heaney (deceased). Present membership numbers 25 persons.

## SUNNYSIDE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Founded during the early 1900's by H. Jones Davis and other south road neighbors, this shortlived organization left behind an everlasting memory through its work of planting the maple trees of Maple Avenue.

## BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS

One of America's foremost youth organizations, Scouting, dates back to the early twenties in Rutland. Residents of the town who have made exceptional contributions to the troop include Eugene Marsh during the twenties and thirties and Forrest Armentrout during the fifties and sixties. Among the early official troop committee men were Edmund Kelsey, Albert Thomas and Harold I. Judkins. Troop 141 means a lot to our Scouts.

## AMERICAN LEGION

In the Fall of 1928, a group of veterans met in the Selectmen's room of the former Town Hall to organize a Post. Among those present were Dr. W. B. Davidson, Frank Brooks, Rufus Putnam, Harold Judkins, and a person from Athol then living here. Dr. Davidson was elected Commander of Avery W. Putnam Post No. 288. We gave this Post to the V. A. Hospital veterans, which has since gone out of existence, and organized Rutland Post No. 310 in 1932, with Frank Fay as the first commander and Frank Brooks and Donald Lincoln, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The local Post is known as the Naquag Post No. 6716 V.F.W. and was chartered on March 24, 1946. Its first Commander was James A. Bell. The Post's objects are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational. The Post donated the letters, "Naquag Elementary School", and works jointly with local associations on worthy projects.

## RUTLAND RECREATIONAL COUNCIL, INC.

During the late forties, the Couples Club of the Congregational Church became enthused about improving the town's recreational facilities with the result that Rutland Recreational Council was formed. The Council is composed of representatives from town officials, church groups, and all local organizations. The result of their efforts is the presence of the swimming pool, athletic field, the Fourth of July Celebration, the Winter Carnival, etc.

# Interesting Facts About Rutland

The word "Rutland" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "rut", red and land, so-called from the redness of the soil; this was so marked that it colored the wool of the sheep.

Rutland was originally in the County of Middlesex.

Rutland is the central town of the Commonwealth. The center of town is over 1,200 feet above sea-level and is the highest town between the Berkshire hills and the Atlantic coast.

The first meeting-house in Rutland was started in 1720, and completed early in 1721. There is today near the fire house a small boulder with a bronze plaque on it to commemorate this historic event.

The Rutland Minute Men on April 19, 1775 consisted of 48 men under the command of Captain Thomas Eustis. They participated in the historic battle for the occupation of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

The General Court of Massachusetts is one of the oldest legislative bodies in the world. As a colonial and American body, it has gained a lasting place in the history of America. In colonial days, it was composed entirely of freemen.

In 1713, a journey from Rutland to Boston took at least two days via the Post Road.

In 1831, Jabez Bigelow, began to manufacture meal sieves and sand riddles in Rutland. For the enlightenment of moderns, a riddle was a coarse sieve.

The east branch of the Ware River is the only stream running through the town. It has its source on the west side of Wachusett Mountain. It enters the north-east part, taking a circuitous course, receiving several tributaries, running over five miles in the town, falling one hundred feet, and leaving at the north-west corner of town.

The town of Rutland is the geographical center of Massachusetts, north and south, and along its border is a section of high land extending across the state, forming a sort of physical vertebra, and equidistant between the sea and the Connecticut River.

Upon the portion of this ridge in Rutland there is a spring from whence proceeds a rivulet, which, after a short distance, divides, — one section of it flowing into a tributary of the Connecticut, and the other into a feeder of the Merrimac River. But the little stream whose

waters aid in the maintenance of two rivers is not the only natural curiosity upon this ridge; for just over its eastern crest is an elm tree, which, because of its location, is called the "Central Tree."

Dr. Hezekiah Fletcher was Rutland's first community doctor and came to Rutland in 1726. He lived on the ten rod road near the town center. He died in 1754 and was succeeded by his son Dr. Alpheus Fletcher.

Part of the former Hardwick Turnpike is now known as the Central Tree Road.

The first electric current for lighting the town of Rutland was turned on, for the first time, on August 1, 1914 at 5:20 P. M.

The water was let on for the first time on September 4, 1896.

## Credits

### TOPIC ASSIGNMENTS

<i>The Naquag of Rutland</i> .....	Fred Mathews
<i>Early History, Cemeteries</i> .....	Mrs. Willis E. Janes
<i>West Rutland, Veterans Hospital</i> .....	Raymond H. Kimball
<i>North Rutland, Library</i> .....	Mrs. Roger J. Lemere
<i>Churches, Schools</i> .....	Edmund D. Kelsey
<i>Street-Map, Organizations</i> .....	H. Scott Davis
<i>Interesting Facts</i> .....	Edward A. Turner
<i>State Sanatorium</i> .....	Mrs. Blanch Laroche, Mrs. Arthur Smith
<i>Hotel Bartlet</i> .....	Ralph S. Bartlet
<i>Asa Davis Association</i> .....	Mrs. Lillian H. Curtis
<i>Cover Design</i> .....	John H. Griffin
<i>Photography-Groups &amp; Present Buildings</i> .....	Eugene C. Kennedy
<i>Typist</i> .....	Miss Donna Carlson

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<i>Picturesque Rutland (1904)</i> .....	Rutland Fire Department
<i>History of the Town of Rutland</i> .....	Timothy C. Murphy
<i>Pamphlet: Tercentenary Observer and Old Home Day</i> .....	Tercentenary Committee

The Booklet Committee wishes to thank all those persons who have contributed information or who have helped in any way in the publication of this Souvenir Booklet.

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By His Excellency

FRANCIS W. SARGENT

Governor

## A PROCLAMATION

1972

WHEREAS, The Town of Rutland, in the County of Worcester, was named from a shire in Old England and is among the early towns rich in colonial history for it was bought from the Indians in 1686 and incorporated in 1722, and

WHEREAS, Among Rutland's early inhabitants was General Rufus Putnam, the engineer of the works which compelled the British Army to evacuate Boston and of the fortification of West Point, and

WHEREAS, After the Revolution, Rutland's citizens joined Daniel Shays' insurgents and the town was the headquarters of Shays' forces who marched to Worcester, and

WHEREAS, In the early historical days of Rutland surveyors noted that the town was the geographic center of Massachusetts and a marker on Central Tree Avenue identifies the spot;

NOW, therefore, I, FRANCIS W. SARGENT, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim 1972 as

The 250th Anniversary of

The Town of Rutland

and urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and to participate fittingly in its observance.

GIVEN at the Executive Chamber in Boston,  
this twenty-seventh day of April, in the  
year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and  
seventy-two, and of the Independence of the  
United States of America, the one hundred-and  
ninety-sixth.

By His Excellency the Governor,

John F. D. Warren  
JOHN F. X. DAVOREN,  
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Francis W. Sargent



Copyrighted 1972, G. D. Cheshire, Uxbridge, Mass.  
THE CENTRAL TREE OF MASSACHUSETTS

SIGNING OF GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



*Left to right: Albert J. Thomas, Chairman; Rep. Edward C. Harrington, Jr.; Mrs. Margaret C. Gordon, Secretary-Treasurer; Harold I. Judkins, Past Commander Rutland Post American Legion; Mrs. Albert J. Thomas. (seated: Gov. Francis W. Sargent).*

